

THE LANCASTER NEWS

VOL 23. NO. 38. SEMI-WEEKLY.

LANCASTER, S. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1918.

SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00 A YEAR

BLAME FOR WRECK FORMALLY PLACED

Coroner's Jury Says Crew of No 18 Did Not Carry Out Company's Rules.

FALLS UPON THE FLAGMAN

Contradictory Testimony Heard as to Placing of Torpedoes By Flagman Locklier After Being Called in by His Engine.

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 28.—Responsibility for the Southern Railway wreck at Frost Monday afternoon, when 12 people were killed was placed Tuesday by the coroner's jury on the crew of train No. 18, who, it alleged, failed to properly observe the rules of caution. The verdict read:

"That the 12 persons came to their deaths by train No. 42 from Spartanburg to Columbia running into train No. 18 from Greenville to Columbia at or near Frost, occasioned through the rules of caution being not thoroughly carried out by crew of train No. 18."

A thorough investigation was also conducted by railroad officials and immediately thereafter the following statement was issued by F. S. Collins, superintendent of the Columbia division:

"Investigation developed some contradictory statements between some members of the crews, but it is clear that if the flagging rules had been observed by train No. 18, the accident would not have occurred."

Flagmen's Rules.

"When a train is stopped at an unusual point or is delayed at a regular stop over three minutes or when it fails to make its schedule time, the flagman must immediately go back with danger signals to stop any train moving in the same direction. At a point one-half of a mile (or 18 telegraph poles) from the rear of his train he must place one torpedo on the rail, on engine man's side; he must then continue to go back at least three-fourths of a mile (or 27 telegraph poles) from the rear of his train and place two torpedoes on the rail, ten yards apart (one rail length), when he may return to a point one-half of a mile (or 18 telegraph poles) from the rear of his train, and he must remain there until recalled; but if a passenger train is due within ten minutes, he must remain until it arrives. When he comes in, he will remove the torpedo nearest to the train, but the two torpedoes must be left on the rail as a caution signal to any following train.

"If the delay occurs upon single track, and it becomes necessary to protect the front of the train, or if any other track is obstructed, the front brakeman must go forward and use the same precautions. If the front brakeman is unable to leave the train, the fireman must be sent in his place.

"On descending grades, or during blinding storms or fog, the flagman must go as much farther than the distance named above as will insure absolute safety, placing the torpedoes at relatively greater distances from the obstruction."

Train No. 42 was three or four minutes late at Frost, one-half mile from the wreck. Engineer Long testified, and his train was running, he said, about 45 miles an hour when the collision occurred.

Another phase of the inquest about which much inquiry was directed was Rule 99 under which flagmen operate, requiring a flagman to remain at his post and disregard "call in" signals, when a trailing passenger train is only ten minutes behind another train on an irregular stop. Strict compliance with the rule would have required Locklier to have stuck by his protecting station until train No. 42 arrived and then to have mounted the engine and proceeded on the trailing train, as train No. 18 was on No. 42's schedule.

Torpedoes in Question.

Harvey Locklier, flagman on train No. 18, testified at the coroner's inquest that when his train was halted Monday afternoon he immediately rushed back up the track between

WAXHAW MAN IS NOW PRISONER IN GERMANY

T. B. Arrant, of Waxhaw, Held at Brandenburg, His Sister Is Informant—Picking Cotton.

Monroe, Feb. 28.—During the good weather for the past several days, the Union county farmers have gathered much cotton from the fields. During December and January the weather conditions were such that a great deal of cotton was left in the fields. Prices for picking are running as high as \$2 per 100 pounds, but even at this it is profitable as the farmer gets from 23 to 27 cents for this damaged product, and there are several hundred bales in the fields at this time.

T. B. Arrant, of Waxhaw, in this county, is a prisoner of war in Brandenburg, Germany. This information was conveyed to his sister, Mrs. M. S. Ashley by the Red Cross national headquarters at Washington, D. C. She had not heard from her brother for more than a year and she did not know whether he was dead or not. It develops that he was captured off a British vessel about a year ago and taken to Brandenburg and has since been held as a prisoner.

GERMAN FIRE RETURNED SHARPLY BY AMERICANS

Enemy Attacks Followed by Deadly Retaliatory Work on Part of United States Troops.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 28.—In the American sector northwest of Toul the Germans tried the tactics of concentrating artillery fire on one of the American positions, apparently with the purpose of obliterating it. The American guns immediately punished the German batteries with a doubly heavy retaliatory fire and then swept the enemy lines with a vicious barrage, undoubtedly inflicting considerable damage.

The German guns promptly ceased fire. Whether they were silenced or stopped firing for other reasons is unknown, but since that time hardly a shot has been fired from that point.

At night a German patrol was found once more within the American fire. It was driven back by machine gun and rifle fire. American patrols worked freely, without interference.

The Germans dropped into the American trenches an entirely new type of bomb, resembling a baseball. No damage was done.

Along the front generally there was less firing, owing to low visibility. The Germans continued to shell their targets in the towns behind the lines, aiding one town which hitherto has not been shelled.

FULTON AND WILLARD MAY BE MATCHED FOR A FIGHT

New Orleans, Feb. 28.—Dominick Tortorich, matchmaker for the Athletic club which staged the Fulton-Moran bout here, telegraphed Jess Willard at Jacksonville, an offer of \$100,000, "to be split any way agreeable to the principals" for a world's heavyweight championship match here between the titleholder and Fred Fulton. The only condition included in Tortorich's offer was that the fight be for 20 or more rounds.

Fred Fulton, who knocked out Frank Moran in the third round of a scheduled 20-round bout, announced that he was "ready

a half and three-fourths of a mile and placed two torpedoes on the track and then withdrew the customary space back toward the stationery train and placed a third torpedo, as the rules require, and remained at that post until signaled in by his engineer.

Five members of the crew of train No. 42 testified that no torpedo was exploded by their train and that in all their railroad experience they had never known such a coincidence as two torpedoes failing to explode. One explosion would have halted the train, they all explained. Those of train No. 42 testifying were: F. Branch Long, engineer; W. H. Gelston, conductor; B. Kirkland, fireman; D. H. Harris, flagman, and J. M. Lawson, baggage-master.

ENTENTE REJECTS THE OLIVE BRANCH

Chancellor von Hertling Fails to Drive a Wedge Between the Allied Nations.

OFFENSIVE IS IMPENDING

Aerial Activity of Great Intensity Reported By Germans Who Claim to Have Brought Down 15 Entente Airplanes.

Imperial Chancellor von Hertling has failed to drive a wedge between the entente allies by his reply to President Wilson. The declaration that German aggression in the east is not intended for conquest has come at a time when German acts belie the words of the chancellor, and Paris and London have officially rejected any proffers of the olive branch that the more hopeful of the people saw in the acceptance, in principle of the four points enunciated by President Wilson as the basis for peace negotiations.

Arthur J. Balfour, the British secretary for foreign affairs, sounded the keynote of the entente allies when, speaking at London, he said that, until German militarism was a thing of the past, and there came into existence a court armed with executive powers making the weak nations as safe as the strong, the war must go on. He characterized von Hertling's attitude toward Belgium as unsatisfactory and insisted that German practice does not coincide with President Wilson's propositions.

Philipp Scheidemann, the German socialist leader, has voiced the protest of his party to the peace that is being forced on Russia. In a debate in the Reichstag he said that Germany must negotiate a peace by understanding and that the independence of Belgium must be secured. He says that the Flemings and Walloons must settle their own differences.

While the German Imperial government is trying to convince the world of its disinterestedness in the future of Russia, the advance of the Teuton armies toward Petrograd still goes on. It now appears that there will be no armistice on the Russian front until peace is finally consummated. In spite of the claim by the Bolshevik government that the Russians were fighting hard for the city of Pskov, the Germans have pushed far to the eastward of that town. It is rumored that the Teutons have reached the city of Luga, midway between Pskov and Petrograd. Borisoff, 60 miles northeast of Minsk, has been captured by the Germans. The German official report says that the Teuton troops in Ukraine have reached Corostisheff, east of Zhitomir, which brings the invaders within 50 miles of Kiev. The Russian troops have refused to fight and those who have not abjectly surrendered are fleeing in a disorderly mob toward the capital. If there is any resistance to the German invasion, it must come from the peasants.

American troops have been subjected to a heavy bombardment of gas shell from German batteries. Three Americans are reported to have died from the effects of gas and nine others are said to have suffered severely.

There are no lacking indications that the long expected German drive along the French and British fronts is impending. Aerial activity of great intensity is reported by the Germans, who claim to have brought down 15 entente airplanes. At the same time, the infantry is not idle and raids have been attempted at widely separated points in the past 24 hours. One of these was an attack in considerable force by the Germans against French positions near the Butte Du Mesnil, which the American artillery assisted in capturing recently. The other was north of the Chemin Des Dames, where American troops are understood to be in training. Both assaults were broken up by the prompt action of the allied artillery. British forces have repulsed a hostile attack near St. Quentin.

German "frightfulness" has again been exemplified by the sinking of

TO PROSECUTE MEN WHO LYNCHED BEST

Governor Manning Says Every Effort Will Be Made to Apprehend Guilty Parties.

IS BACK FROM CHICAGO

The Governor, Not Familiar With Details of Lynching, Will Call Barnwell Sheriff for Conference.

Columbia, Feb. 28.—Every effort will be made by the governor's office to thoroughly investigate and prosecute the persons guilty of lynching Walter Best, a negro, near Fairfax, Barnwell county, last Saturday night, stated Governor Manning yesterday afternoon. The governor has just returned from Chicago and Washington.

Walter Best was accused of killing William Wilson, a white man, in a garage at Fairfax and was being taken to the county jail at Barnwell by Sheriff Morris and Deputies John B. Ross and J. F. Gubbs, when he was taken from the officers by a mob of between fifty and sixty white men, according to reports from Fairfax.

As the governor had just arrived in the state he was unfamiliar with the details of the lynching, but he was emphatic in the assertion that the lynchers would be apprehended and prosecuted if it is in his power so to do. He intends to call Sheriff Morris to Columbia in the next few days for a conference on the matter he said.

Governor Manning talked interestingly of his trip to Chicago and Washington and of the incidents which happened while he was at both places. He stated that it was planned by the war department gradually to fill up Camp Jackson, and he thought it probable that fully 4,000 men a month will be sent to the local cantonment.

GERMAN REVOLUTION IS FORECAST IN REICHSTAG

Socialist Says German "People Will Take the Fate of Their Rulers Into Their Own Hands."

Amsterdam, Feb. 28.—A revolution in Germany was predicted by Dr. Cohn, independent socialist deputy, in an address to the Reichstag Friday, the Volks Zeitung, of Cologne says. Dr. Cohn's address, made during the debate on the peace treaty with Ukraine, threw the Reichstag into an uproar.

"It is not correct to say that the people of Russia's Baltic provinces are longing for German rule," he declared.

"The treaty with Ukraine is not the first step toward general peace. I see the day coming when revolution will reach Germany, and the people will take the fate of their rulers into their own hands."

The independent socialists cheered the speaker. From other parts of the house came shouts of "traitor!"

The British hospital ship Glenart Castle. According to the latest advices, there are 164 persons missing from the ship, which was fully lighted and carried the distinctive markings of the hospital service when fired upon. American torpedo boats assisted in picking up the survivors.

Unrest in Ireland, which was believed to be very serious, is now said to be of little consequence. The centers of the threatened uprising are reported in the west and south, but arrangements have been made to cope with the situation. Sinn Feiners who have been "hunger-striking" have been released in a number of instances.

Negotiations looking to a union of Lithuania and Saxony, with Prince Frederick Christian, son of the king of Saxony, as king of the new state, are said to be under way. The Polish ambition to bring about a resumption of the ancient union between their country and Lithuania seems to be doomed in the light of recent developments.

JUNIOR AUXILIARIES ARE BEING ORGANIZED

Now Most Engrossing Branch of Red Cross Work in Lancaster County.

The most engrossing branch of work in the Red Cross just now is the organization of the Junior Auxiliaries in the various county schools. The history of the movement and plans for the development of this department were presented by Rev. Mr. Hugh R. Murchison, chairman of the executive board, and Mrs. Ernest Moore, vice-chairman of the chapter, in addresses before the county teachers' association at their patriotic meeting last Saturday. The Lancaster Central school was the first school to complete its Junior Red Cross organization. Its total enrollment of 471 pupils is now enrolled as a Junior Auxiliary. With the 35 pupils already members of the Lancaster chapter deducted the amount raised by 25-cent Junior fees amounts to \$109. All of this money will be expended in the purchase of material to be made up by the pupils into Red Cross supplies. Even the very youngest children are being assigned work.

The work of organizing other schools in the county is being rapidly pushed by the chapter school committee. Mrs. T. M. Hughes, chairman of the co-operative committee, and Mrs. John Poag, executive secretary, together with Mrs. Springs, visited the schools at Riverside, Cane Creek, Stoneboro, Pleasant Hill and Elgin in all of which the vote was unanimous to organize Junior Red Cross Auxiliaries. The chapter officials wish to express publicly their sincere appreciation of the cordial response and hearty co-operation of the teachers in all the schools visited. Antioch and Buford will be appealed to for organization today.

MENINGITIS EXCITEMENT SWEEPS OVER GAFFNEY

Gaffney, Feb. 28.—There was great excitement in Gaffney yesterday caused by a report that there were several cases of meningitis in town. The physicians of the town immediately got in touch with Dr. H. C. Cody, United States health officer in charge at Camp Wadsworth, who came over to Gaffney and after examining the cases said there was no meningitis.

PROMINENT MEN HELD FOR NEGRO LYNCHING

Seventeen Required to Furnish Heavy Bail Upon Warrants Sworn Out by Sheriff.

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 28.—Seventeen white men of Barnwell county were placed under heavy bonds by Circuit Judge W. H. Townsend here today for alleged participation in the lynching of Walter Best, a negro, last Saturday. The negro early that day had shot William Wilson, a young white boy, to death in a blacksmith shop.

Five of the men were required to furnish bail to the amount of \$7,500 each and 12 to give \$5,000 bail.

Some of the men are prominent in the business and agricultural interests. The warrants were sworn out by Sheriff Morris, of Barnwell county, who said in an affidavit that he recognized most of the men apprehended, eight or nine of whom he designated as going into the swamp with the negro after dragging him from the officers' machine.

One of the sheriff's deputies made affidavit corroborating the sheriff's testimony and also named a man who he says dragged the negro from the automobile.

The men placed under heavy bond are: C. H. Sanders, John Dunbar, O. B. Lynes, E. G. Connelly and Oscar Carlton.

Those furnishing bail to the amount of \$5,000 are: J. R. Blount, W. B. Sanders, G. A. Sanders, B. B. Best, S. W. Dominick, Leo Todd, Lawrence Harter, Grady Harter, H. H. Young, Simms O'Neal, George Hogg and Frank Harter.

TENSE SITUATION GROWS MORE TENSE

Strain in Relations Between Germany and Austria Apppear to Threaten Conflict.

WILL NOT FIGHT RUSSIA

Neither Will Austria Take Part in Action Against Rumania. Violent Measures Would Be No Surprise.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Further evidence of the growing strain in relations between Germany and Austria over the refusal of the latter to participate in the renewed attack upon Russia is given in an official dispatch received here from France. It quotes the Austrian premier as formally reiterating on February 22 that Austria-Hungary will take no part in military action against Russia or Rumania, and will not send her troops into Ukraine.

The dispatch refers to the meeting between Emperors Charles and William February 22, and says there seems little doubt that a serious conflict has arisen between the two nations which Germany is determined to settle by violent measures if necessary.

The dispatch follows: "Charles I paid a visit to William II the 22nd of February. Ludendorff was present at the interview. If we are to judge from the tone of the interview it must have been lacking in cordiality. There seems to be little doubt but what a serious conflict has broken out during the week between the courts of Vienna and Berlin and which Germany is determined to settle if need be by violent measures.

"The situation of the dual monarchy is such that the Vienna government in order to avert a catastrophe has been obliged to distinguish by means of public declaration its own policy from that of Germany. The report that at the conference of February 14 Hertling and Ludendorff had decided to pay no attention to the Russian demobilization and to prepare to begin the conflict on the east front caused a great stir throughout Austria. It was not simply the dissenting nationalities, the Czechs, the Slovenes, or the Poles, who do not desire to fight any more, but it is the mass of the population of German origin who refuse to sacrifice themselves any longer to assure the triumph of Prussian imperialism.

"An official note of the 15th had announced that Austria for her part would continue to consider the war as terminated with Russia and would abstain from taking part in the operations planned by the German command. A second note of the 15th repeated the same statement. When asked to give further particulars at the sitting of the chamber on the 22nd the Austrian premier formally stated:

"The words uttered by different deputies have proved that the explanation which has been furnished up to present by me have not been sufficiently explicit. I repeat, therefore, that Austria-Hungary will participate in no way in the military action which is now being carried on by Germany against Russia. I repeat that there is no question of having our troops penetrate into Ukraine with whom we are at peace. I repeat that the armistice exists between Austria-Hungary and Rumania and that we are only considering entering as early as possible into peace conversations with this country."

"These declarations are serious. Without a doubt in his speech on the 19th of February, Seydler pleaded his fidelity to the alliance. But more and more Germany runs the risk of seeing Austria, and after her Bulgaria and Turkey, take a positive attitude and, practically withdrawing from the struggle, witness as spectators the continuation of hostilities."

For War Time Prohibition.

Washington, Feb. 21.—War time prohibition in Hawaii is provided in a bill favorably reported to the house today by the territories committee.